



# DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

## COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

MARC RABOIT, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 1728

STATE OF MONTANA

TELEPHONE: (406) 444-3555  
FAX: (406) 444-1394  
TDD: (406) 444-0502

HELENA, MONTANA 59624-1728

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Dear Governor, Legislators, and Citizens of Montana:

I am honored to present to you the *Montana Workers' Compensation 1999 Annual Report*.

As we work together to provide Montana businesses with healthy, productive, and rewarding work opportunities, the collection and examination of good data is essential to understand our current work environment and, subsequently, how to improve it. The Workers' Compensation (WC) database is the key to this data in the WC arena and we are proud to provide this service to Montana.

The annual report is only one of the many specific things we do as we work daily toward fulfilling the department's mission to promote the well being and opportunities of Montana's workers, employers, and citizens and uphold their rights and responsibilities. While workers' compensation data is collected to provide the Governor and Legislature with the management information they need to provide a healthy, efficient workers' compensation system, there are other benefits that can be derived from the data collected. This report is designed to assist all participants in Montana's Workers' Compensation System to understand evolving trends and developments and to help maintain an efficient, effective program.

The accumulation of each year's data is the result of many peoples' efforts. The insurers, adjusters, attorneys, Workers' Compensation Court, and Department of Labor and Industry staff who contribute directly to this collection effort deserve special thanks.

Also of special note, this is the first of these reports available on the Internet. We have achieved another milestone in our continuing efforts to make more information more readily available to more people. We intend to continue to improve both the product and the process.

As in prior years, your suggestions for improvement of our report are gratefully received.

Sincerely,

  
PAT HAFHEY  
Commissioner